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BREZHNEV DEMARCHIE OPENS 'NEW PHASE' ON NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE

Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 27 Jun 81 p 2

[Editorial: "Nuclear-Free Nordic Area in New Phase"]

[Text] "Guarantees that nuclear weapons will not be used against countries belonging to the nuclear-free zone are of primary importance and to the countries in question an unconditionally important obligation which the Soviet Union is prepared to accept. However, this does not preclude the possibility of deliberating the question of certain other obligations, which concern our own territory within the framework of the Nordic nuclear-free zone. The Soviet Union is prepared to discuss this issue with countries that are interested."

This statement by President and Party Leader Brezhnev represents a new and significant position in the discussion that has been going on for decades already with respect to a nuclear-free Nordic area.

The Soviet news media have previously rejected any ideas that a nuclear-free Nordic area could somehow also concern the Soviet Union's own areas. Thus it can even seem surprising that the Soviet Union is now prepared to discuss "certain other obligations" also, which are connected with a nuclear-free zone and concern Soviet areas. In a way such a promise is, however, a logical consequence of Moscow's previous positions.

The Soviet Union has made assurances that it "will never use nuclear weapons against those countries which refrain from the production or procurement of such weapons and which do not have nuclear weapons on their territory". If the Nordic area were to fulfill these conditions of the Soviet Union, then, for example, such medium-range nuclear weapons whose potential targets are in the area in question would not be needed on the Kol'skiy Peninsula. In other words: credible guarantees already in themselves seem to presuppose limits with respect to the Soviet Union.

In a way Brezhnev's statement is an answer to Norway's ruling Workers Party. At its congress in April the Workers Party gave up its previous demand that a possible nuclear-free zone should also include certain areas of the Soviet Union. According to the new stand medium-range missiles equipped with nuclear warheads, whose potential targets are in the Nordic area, should be removed from the Kol'skiy Peninsula -- but not strategic long-range missiles.

Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland talked about the same issue a few days ago: "It would be in accordance with our own interests to reduce the nuclear threat to the Nordic countries by eliminating those nuclear weapons which threaten us because of their range and location; strategic long-range weapons belong to the sphere of super power strategy."

After Brezhnev's statement it seems possible that we can finally embark on a constructive discussion of a nuclear-free Nordic area. However, immediate results are not to be expected. It is difficult to know what Brezhnev meant by "certain other obligations". Would they also concern Soviet nuclear weapons in the vicinity of the Baltic Sea as Sweden and Denmark presume?

Brezhnev is correct in stating that the significance of a nuclear-free zone "would mean more to its participants if they were also given similar guarantees on the part of nuclear states belonging to NATO".

However, the United States has adopted a cautious attitude toward guarantees given to nuclear-free countries. The discussion conducted in Norway about a nuclear-free Nordic zone has aroused suspicions in Washington. Warming up to this idea on the part of the Americans could mean that a nuclear-free Nordic area would be tied to a broader European arrangement.

In any event there is now more reason than ever before to study the possibility of establishing a nuclear-free zone. The idea is no longer built on empty hopes as it has been in the past.

10576

CSO: 3107/113

BRIEFS

ANTISMUGGLING MEASURE--Kilis (AA)--It was learned that a portion of the "Border Road" under construction all along Turkey's border with Syria and Iraq has been completed and the remaining portion will be completed this year. YSE [Highway, Water and Electric Affairs Directorate General] regional directorate teams have worked nonstop on highway construction begun all along Turkey's southern border--and immediately beside the border--with the aim of preventing smuggling. According to information obtained, upon completion of the work to stabilize the 918-km road--built for purposes of controlling the border--asphalt surfacing will be undertaken. Thanks to this road, built the length of the border, military units in motorized vehicles will patrol continuously and will as a result uncover incidents of smuggling which might escape the attention of the watchtowers. [Text] [Adana YENI ADANA in Turkish 23 Jun 81 pp 1, 5]

CSO: 4654/88

BRIEFS

NORDIC ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATION--For the fourth month in a row, the very large importation of electricity from Norway and Sweden [to Denmark] is continuing. In the last few weeks, half of the electricity consumption on Funen and Jutland has been covered by imports, states a press release by ELSAM, the Funen-Jutland Power Cooperative. The importing means that the domestic power plants can operate with reduced production, and thereby a great deal of fuel is saved. Therefore the coal stocks are increased at a time otherwise characterized by difficult supply conditions. The favorable import situation is due to the fact that there are large surpluses in Norway, and that the Swedish nuclear power plants are operating very dependably. [Text] [Copenhagen INFORMATION in Danish 8 Jul 81 p 5]

CSO: 3106/152

BRIEFS

CUKUROVA POWER STATIONS--Mersin (Akajans)--It is reported that six power stations are to be established on the Goksu River which joins the Seyhan River near Imamoglu. These power stations will provide a total of 811,000kw of energy. The power stations to be established on the Goksu River--which passes near Tufanbeyli and through the districts of Dogan, Saimbeyli, Feke and Imamoglu--including their capacities, are as follows: Yamanli, 58,000kw; Menge, 89,000kw; Kopru, 189,000kw; Kavsak, 120,000kw; Yedi Goze, 310,000kw, and Imamoglu, 40,000kw. [Text] [Adana YENI ADANA in Turkish 27 Jun 81 pp 1, 2]

CSO: 4654/87

EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION PREDICTS 42.5 PERCENT INFLATION RISE

Reykjavik MORGUNBLADID in Icelandic 16 Jun 81 p 2

[Text] The average increase in the cost-of-living index during 1981 will be 42.5 percent according to a forecast in June by the Icelandic Employers Confederation (VSI) on developments in prices and the exchange rate in 1981. The forecast predicts an average increase of 49.1 percent in 1980-1981.

Furthermore, it says that the increase in the cost-of-living index was 58 percent between 1 February 1980 and 1 February 1981. The forecast estimates an increase of 49.6 percent between 1 August 1980 and 1 August 1981; a 48.1 percent increase between 1 November 1980 and 1 November 1981, and finally a 43.0 percent increase between 1 February 1981 and 1 February 1982.

The forecast predicts an increase of 9.3 percent in the cost-of-living index on 1 August 1981, a 9.8 percent on 1 November 1981, and an increase of 10.4 percent on 1 February 1982.

The exchange rate of the dollar was 7.15 at the end of May. The forecast predicts a dollar exchange rate of 7.60 in August this year, 8.15 in October, and 8.70 in January next year.

Notes accompanying the June forecast say among other things that information on price developments for the first 5 months of the year is now available. If the VSI forecast is viewed in light of past experience, its predictions will closely reflect actual developments for the rest of the year. Thus, a 15 percent increase in the cost-of-living index was predicted between November 1980 and February 1981, which turned out to be 14.3 percent in reality. Estimates of a 9.5 percent increase were made for the following 3 months; it turned out to be 8.2 percent. Similar wage increase estimates were 5.5 percent in March and 9.5 percent in June, which turned out to be 5.95 percent and 8.10 percent

The VSI prediction that was made in January has been revised in light of these developments and the condition of the fishing industry. The main conclusion is that price increases will be a bit slower than predicted.

There are smaller deviations in the exchange rate forecast. It seems likely that the price increases for 1981 will be about 42 percent but the average increase between 1980 and 1981 will be about 50 percent, according to the forecast.

The main reason for the difference is considered to be the developments in the exchange rate over the rest of the year. After the election of a new president in the United States late last year, the dollar became considerably stronger on the world market. Simultaneously, the most important European currencies weakened. This trend is very favorable for the Icelandic economy, as our exports are traded mostly in dollars, whereas imports are more tied to European currencies.

Moreover, it says that in spite of the obvious impact of the cuts in wage bonuses, we should not overlook that the present makeup of the wage index is the reason for the steady quarterly increases in the cost-of-living index as the year passes. Without further measures geared towards cutting business costs, there will only be short-term progress in the struggle against inflation.

8743

CSO: 3111/43

STATUS OF FOREIGN LOANS REVIEWED

Istanbul DUNYA in Turkish 11 Jun 81 p 1

[Text] Ankara -- Turkey has \$4.12 billion in credit which it has not yet used, it was announced. According to information provided by the Finance Ministry and the Central Bank, a large portion of the as-yet unused credit is being used to cover the foreign financing requirements of various investment projects. Credit tranches are opened for use as soon as the projects are realized.

Principal on the foreign loans which Turkey has actually used is \$17.78 billion. Interest is estimated between \$7 billion and \$8 billion.

A 16.2 percent increase is seen in foreign loans in 1980 over 1979. Foreign loans increased 1.6 percent in 1979 and 29.3 percent in 1978.

In addition to growth of the foreign debt load, a big change also occurred in the loan structure between 1977 and 1980. At the end of 1977, 53 percent of foreign loans were short-term loans, while this rate had dropped to 14 percent at the end of 1980.

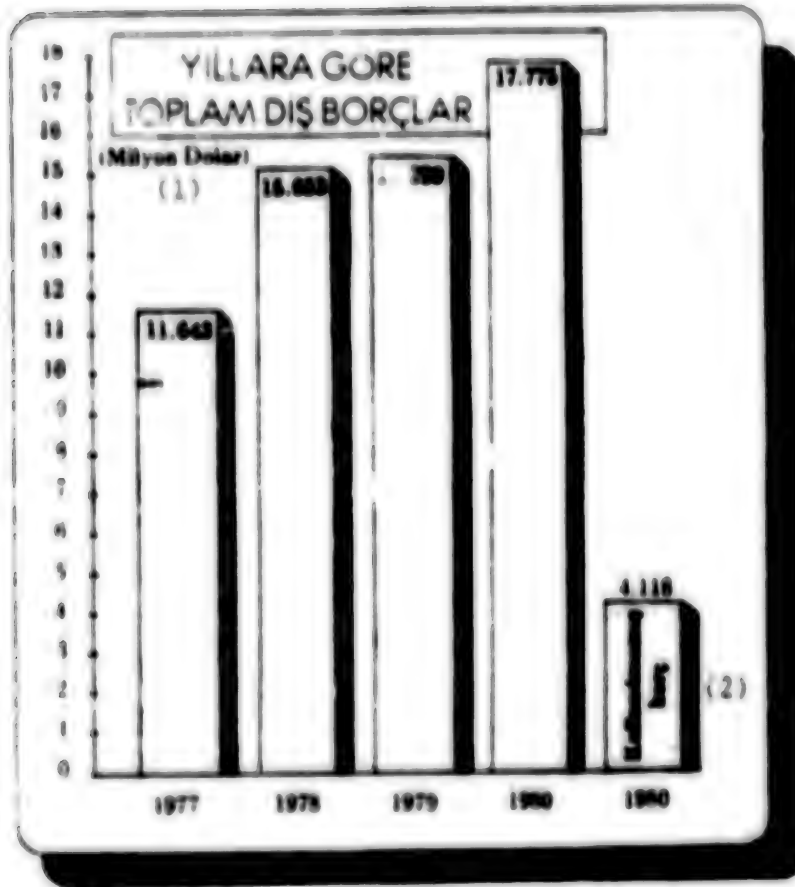
Of the \$17.78 billion in principal on Turkey's loans at the end of 1980, \$15.34 billion consists of medium- and long-term loans.

Of the medium-term loans, \$2.14 billion consists of rescheduled, old short-term loans. An unguaranteed loan of approximately \$800 million comprising commodity exchange import loans is also included among the postponed medium-term loans.

The largest share of the medium-term loans consists of bilateral credits. Loans by OECD countries represent \$6.35 billion of this \$7.07 billion in credits. In this context, \$301 million is owed to OPEC countries and \$422 million to other countries.

While \$1.41 billion of short-term loans belong to the public sector, \$1.03 billion belongs to the private sector.

Total Foreign Loans By Year



Key:

1. \$ millions
2. unused loans

8349

CSO: 4654/39

AEGEAN BUSINESSMEN URGE HOUSING PUSH

Istanbul DUNYA in Turkish 17 Jun 81 p 7

[Text] Izmir (DUNYA) -- The Aegean Chamber of Industry [COI] Housing Construction Committee members have called for long-term, low-interest credit, stating that support of middle- and low-income groups is especially needed to restore construction demand.

The committee members, who stress that passage of the Public Housing Law as soon as possible has become imperative from the standpoint of production, employment and social expectations, met to discuss the matter and, in debate of a report on the views of Aegean construction supply firms and contractors, set forth the causes of the construction sector's present predicament and the measures needed to get it out of the slump.

Causes

Stating that a major cause leading to the slump was acceptance of the construction sector as a nonproductive sector, appraisal of investments in this sector as sterile in comparison with the agriculture and industry sectors and the prominence of this view in development plans, the Aegean COI Construction Committee members listed the causes as follows:

"Taxes imposed on the construction sector have risen to the point where they constitute as much as 20 percent to 40 percent of production costs. Doubtless these taxes act as a deterrent to construction. Increased housing demand then sends prices up.

"Rising inflation toward the end of the 1970's made home ownership a hedge against inflation, and prices of construction materials sky rocketed. When this combined with declining urban purchasing power, housing demand dropped off abruptly

"Imbalance in the interest limits applied in rentals has made investments in this sector unattractive. The sector suffering the worst damage from the high interest policy is the construction sector. While the sector, under the influence of the high cost problem mentioned, already faced by shrinking demand, demand has now approached the zero point as a result of savings holders' switching to interest income, confronted with a choice between rental income or interest income. Annual rental income on a 2 million-lira apartment or office is only around 150,000 liras, while net interest income exclusive of taxes on the same amount is as much as 750,000 liras. Avoiding real estate is normal in this climate. It is well to remember also that shrinking demand and stalled investments go hand in hand with unemployment.

"Backward technology and expensive production have occurred because of the delay in introducing the industrialized housing production and techniques seen in foreign countries.

"Any construction project, permit or approval gets bogged down in a maze of red tape.

"The construction sector's share of credit is extremely small. Housing credit is not even 2 percent of total credit."

Solution Proposals

Noting the need for measures to resolve the slump in the construction sector to be inclusive of all problems, the Housing Committee members expressed the following views on the measures which need to be taken:

"It is necessary that measures taken be inclusive of all the problems. Variations in earnings, values and costs lie at the bottom of the problem.

"The support of middle- and low-income groups is especially needed to stimulate housing demand. Long-term, low-interest credit must be available in sufficient quantities.

"If costs are to be reduced and demand encouraged, it is important to lighten the taxes and fees which run costs up such as the license tax, the occupancy tax, the property purchase and appreciation taxes and registration fees. Tax payment facilities could be provided by allowing the first few years to be tax-exempt and dividing payments into several installments in the remaining years. Regulations and red tape must be eased to allow uncompleted structures to be finished quickly.

"It is important in increasing demand to have the social security organizations allocate a large share to housing credits, have the banks assign a proportion of their deposits to housing credit and have the formalities simplified and made uniform in practice.

"Speedy designation of new residential areas and provision as soon as possible of the necessary infrastructure (roads, water, electricity, telephones) will attract and encourage new investments.

"Practices should be introduced to ensure and encourage cooperation between public establishments and the private sector.

"Although the full text is not known of the 'Public Housing Bill,' which is being discussed in the Council of Ministers and has been placed on the National Security Council agenda, it is hoped that, with the establishment of a fund sufficient for the production of 400,000 to 500,000 residences annually, it will bring adequate activity to the construction sector and to the sectors dependent on it and experiencing a chain-reaction expectation. In view of this, passage of the law as soon as possible has become imperative from the standpoint of production, employment and social expectations."

8349

CSO: 4654

KOCATOPCU ADDRESSES INTEREST RATE, WAGES, INDUSTRY

Istanbul DUNYA in Turkish 11 Jun 81 p 7

[Text] Eskisehir (HURRIYET NEWS AGENCY) -- Industry and Technology Minister Sahap Kocatopcu has said that "the implementation of the 24 January decisions has been successful, having won, in particular, increased savings, improvement of exports and a slowed rate of inflation." Speaking at a meeting of the Eskisehir Chamber of Industry [COI], Kocatopcu mentioned the banks' efforts with regard to interest rates and pointed out that "it would be better to keep deposit interest at 40 percent, not 50 percent."

Industry and Technology Minister Kocatopcu addressed the Eskisehir COI meeting yesterday. He said that it was "necessary to work together on three matters to pave the road to development," adding the following, in summary:

"Turkey must be united in the era of freedom. National interests must come before personal interests. Long-term interests must come before short-term interests. If we cannot be united today on these three things, we can never be united."

Industry and Technology Minister Kocatopcu noted that "implementation of the 24 January decisions has been successful, bringing about, in particular, increased savings, improvement of exports and a slowed rate of inflation."

Stating that "exports and imports will even out in 4 years, thus effecting a foreign trade balance," Sahap Kocatopcu continued as follows:

"Success has been won in inflation, exports and savings. However, it was admitted from the beginning that Turkish industrialists would bear the brunt of the price of these three factors. In consequence of these decisions, investment has stopped and the employment problem has mushroomed. The Turkish industrialist will suffer, but he will not die, as the disease has been diagnosed. The medicine has been prescribed, but there are differing views on what the dosage should be. We must regulate the dosage to be both effective and balanced."

Industry and Technology Minister Sahap Kocatopcu noted that "the investment available to the state as proposed by the State Planning Organization is 7.3 trillion liras, but the investment for this year is .5 trillion" and said, "Investments are programmed according to their priority, with energy first."

Industry and Technology Minister Kocatopcu touched also on the banks' efforts on interest rates and said, "It would be better to keep deposit interest at 40 percent, not 50 percent."

Kocatopcu then said the following, in summary:

"These interest rates will go down; I will introduce a proposal to counter the banks' desire to raise interest rates as our greatest goal must be to direct savings into the stock market. Moreover, encouragement of stock market participation is an antidote to communism. Share ownership must gain value. How are we going to spur interest in it? We must get corporation taxes down to 40 percent. This will be a tremendous help. Net assets must be increased. We cannot get the net assets for investment if we sell every villa in Turkey. I have another proposal for you and that is to issue preferred stocks. The citizen must be guaranteed a dividend. Net assets improve by going public. It would also provide an opportunity to get the banks in line. This would be possible only through amendment of the law. We appreciate the sacrifice of our industrialists, but how far can it go? I hope the most will be made of my proposal to issue preferred stocks."

Wages According to Costs

Sahap Kocatopcu also commented on labor-management relations in his speech, saying, "The Union of Chambers has 800,000 members in management, but the confederation of employer unions has only around 1,000 members. Employers need to be organized, too. Thought should be given to paying wages according to costs instead of across the board wage increases."

Kocatopcu also said that Turkey should discontinue production of cast iron, that cast iron needs could be covered by imports for 1982.

Industrialists' Fast

Eskisehir industrialists also enumerated their problems at the meeting.

Ali Caglayan, Esmak Makina Industry board chairman, stated that "Turkish industry has begun a long-term fast" and said, "Industry is dead, or on the verge of death, today. The most important factor in this is bank interest rates. Savers used to be concerned about which industrial establishment paid them the biggest profit. Today they are making the rounds of the banks."

Yilmaz Cakir, Chamber of Industry vice president and Cicisan general coordinator, also said that they were "hog-tied as industrialists" and called for "elimination of the bureaucratic stumbling blocks."

RHODES EXCURSIONS BOOST TOURISM PROSPECTS

Istanbul DUNYA in Turkish 11 Jun 81 p 7

[Text] The first Marmaris-Rhodes excursion of the year was a splendid trip, carried out under leadership of the Maritime Bank and Turkish Travel Agents Union [TURSAB].

TURSAB and Maritime Bank administrators who made the trip, including Sabit Oguz, captain of the ship, "Gemlik," and journalists who were invited to go along remembered last year's first trip and were asking themselves, "How will it go this year," waiting impatiently to see what kind of reception they would get.

As will be recalled, the first of the Marmaris-Rhodes excursions, begun as a means of developing friendship and cooperation in tourism between Turkey and Greece, took place on 15 July last year and, as a result of Greek confusion and failure to recognize the group, the ship could not put in at Rhodes and was forced to bring its passengers back to Marmaris. Measures were taken later, however, and the Marmaris-Rhodes trips proceeded smoothly.

The first of the Marmaris-Rhodes trips, to be continued this year for the same purpose, took place on 1 June.

A contingent which included Tourism and Information Minister Ilhan Evliyaoglu gathered in front of the TURSAB office on the morning of 30 May for the drive from Ankara to Oren.

The contingent attended the opening of the Oren Resort Village, which has been leased by the Tourism Bank for 5 years, stayed overnight there and went on to Marmaris the next day.

After touring Selcuk, Efes and Marmaris, the contingent departed for Rhodes the next day.

As the approximately 2.5-hour Marmaris-Rhodes cruise began, everyone on the ship was trying to relax and keep from looking worried: "The Greeks will greet us with heavy machine gun fire and artillery." "You'll see, they'll welcome us with flowers at Rhodes."

Finally, Rhodes came into view, at the same time as the pilot vessel which was to meet the "Gemlik." After a short exchange between "Gemlik" Captain Sabit Oguz and the pilot vessel officer, the "Gemlik" sounded its horn and entered the harbor.

There was a crush of onlookers and workers at the port. Those on the "Gemlik" breathed a sigh of relief when they heard the cry, "Welcome." Expressions of doubt and tension relaxed and turned into smiles.

The Rhodes trip, its 2.5 hours seeming to stretch into a month, ended delightfully, as if promising that the tension and events of last year were forgotten and thus friendship and cooperation between the two nations would be strengthened and continued. The best proof of this was the shower of flowers which greeted passengers debarking the "Gemlik."

Evliyaoglu: We Will Support All Initiatives with Easy Credit

Tourism and Information Minister Ilhan Evliyaoglu made a speech at the Oren Resort Village opening, expressing the following views:

"By taking over these facilities, the Tourism Bank has both made a great contribution to tourism and prevented the waste of such facilities. Development of tourism is possible through realization of the principles placed in the plans. The first thing to be done in this regard is to enable the tourism sector to acquire guest accommodations."

Stating that they were working toward a tourism spurt in the mid-1980's, Evliyaoglu continued as follows:

"Our goal is to support all initiatives with the policy of easy credit. It is our belief that, in the short term, tourism will be an important key to economic recovery."

Tourism Bank Director: Accommodations at 2,790

Tourism Bank Director General Cafer Canli said that with the opening of Oren, the bank owns two resorts in Balikesir Province with an accommodation capacity of 2,790.

Speaking at the opening of the Oren Resort Village, which has been leased by the Tourism Bank for 5 years, Cafer Canli noted that the bank had spent 15 million liras to date in order to make the facility useable and said:

"The Tourism Bank, in keeping with ministry policy, has placed at the disposal of tourism entrepreneurs low-cost construction, plant and furnishing credits. According to our 1981 principles, we are giving 20-year construction loans with an 8-year grace period and 19-year plant loans with a grace period of up to 6 years at the very low interest rate of 15 percent. However, the Tourism Bank keeps a tight rein on its loans, giving credit to those who obtain documentation from our ministry.

BRIEFS

INFLATION FIGURES FOR 1981--May price hikes have spawned a rapid rise in previously stabilized prices. Nevertheless, the rate of increase of prices in the first 6 months of this year is still far below the rate of increase for the first 6 months of last year. The figures for the month of June in the "Istanbul Cost of Living Index," prepared by the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, were announced yesterday. According to this index, wholesale prices increased by 4.4 percent during the month of June. The total rise in prices from January to June was 14.6 percent. The rise in prices for the same period last year was 33.6 [percent]. Price increase rates for the months of February, March and April of this year fell sharply. The 3.3 percent rate of increase for January amounted to 1.04 percent in February, 0.7 percent in March and 1.1 percent in April. Price increases accelerated in May, rising to 3.2 percent. This rate rose to 4.4 in June. Accordingly, the largest increase in prices this year occurred in June. In Turkey, prices generally rise in the months of January, February, March and April. Price increases slow down in the months of May and June. This year, the reverse has occurred. [Text] [Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 7 Jul 81 p 3]

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES--Ankara (ANKA)--It has been observed that the available reserve of foreign exchange is diminishing rapidly. During the week of 19-26 June, available foreign exchange resources fell a further \$18.8 million to \$640.4 million. Thus, the decrease in accrued foreign exchange which took place during the 25 week period beginning with the first of the year has reached 183 million. [Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 7 Jul 81 p 11]

NEW COMPANIES--During the first 6 months of 1981, 4,191 new companies with a total of 21.21 billion lira in capital were established in Turkey. During the same period, 1,371 companies with a total capital of 750.6 million lira were dissolved, and 927 companies increased their capital by 6.393 billion lira. A 16.804 billion lira portion of the capital of these companies set up in the first 6 months belongs to 1,340 corporations. In addition, 1,207 unlimited companies with a total capital of 751 million lira, 880 limited liability companies with 2.139 billion lira, 152 limited partnerships with 299.9 million lira, and 612 cooperatives with 25.9 million lira were set up. During the same period, 505 corporations increased their capital. The increase realized by these corporations was 33,692 billion lira. Two hundred eighty unlimited companies increased their capital by 725.6 million, 99 limited liability companies increased their capital by 1.897 billion and 43 limited partnerships increased their capital by 78.6 million lira. [Excerpt] [Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 7 Jul 81 p 11]

CSO: 4654/85

PROBLEMS IN FLEMISH SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY VIEWED

Historical Background

Brussels KNACK in Dutch 10 Jun 81 pp 24, 26-27

[Article by F.V.]

[Text] The CVP [(Flemish) Social Christian Party] is going into the summer with some difficulties. The past 10 days were rich in signs that something is going wrong in Chairman Tindemans's party. From conversations on the subject, it also appears that the so-called "malaise" is connected with an impending change at the top of the party. In real CVP circles hardly any doubt still exists: Tindemans is going to Strasbourg. He himself is still holding the excitement down somewhat, presumably until there is some certainty about political developments in Belgium itself. Whence all this confusion?

Last week Tindemans wrote an article in LE SOIR in which he admitted outright that "the CVP's malaise" is real. The big party with so much ambition to wade into the economic crisis feels itself the hostage of the Eyskens coalition in which the socialists--according to the chairman--are blocking the sound work of government. This condition cannot remain in effect for long.

On the other hand, the CVP Youth organ RADIKAL actually published an interview with Louis Tobback, the chairman of the SP [Socialist Party] parliamentary delegation, who maintained his old accusations of the CVP: it covers itself on all sides, never says anything definite, is divided within itself, and still stinks. The writer of the piece, Piet Van Speybroeck, had already written an article the week before about the CVP's lack of self-confidence. In the interview with Tobback, too, he expressed the feeling that the socialist strategy should be "countered" by a CVP "which should regain confidence in itself."

But the speech-makers in the party are everlastingly concerned with the question of whether this will be possible without more ado. The press is full of historical surveys of tensions within the socially tripartite CVP which also existed in the crisis years of the 1960's. Every time things go wrong economically, the conflicts of interests within Christian democracy become sharper and the unity is weakened. But today the great authority figures are not there to heal the breach. Twenty years ago there was a thing in the CVP called the "Committee of

Eight," in which that number of prominent members of parliament attempted to orient their parliamentary delegations into the tangled strife of the Lefèvre-Spaak government. Even then the CVP rank and file were grumbling about the government's course and Hertoginnedal. Lefèvre himself was hissed right off the rostrum at a CVP congress. It appears that the CVP again has great need of a board of arbiters of its own to keep the various forces among the Christian democrats from each other's necks. For a year or two the climate of conflict has grown steadily, and it can no longer be concealed.

As early as December 1979, when the famous Heizel congress was approaching, the party seemed to live and feel very far from the (Martens) government. It chased its own prime minister, who was then extremely busy with the state reform, from one model to another. For 8 months before, Tindemans had become party chairman by a surprise maneuver, and everybody remembers the political duel that arose from that and was not finally settled until the selection of the fourth Martens cabinet.

But the uproar within the CVP is to be attributed solely to this discord. It must be remembered that back in October 1980, after the trouble with the dissident senators over Article V of the Constitution, the CVP ministers were accused outright of horse-trading in connection with the legalization of the little Flemish school in Komen, which was said to have been bought off with a highway between Pecq and Armentières. The blame fell on the congress in Ghent, where odd things happened. The demand for "strong ministers" was already acute then. One speaker asserted that "Voerspoed door Moed" [Prosperity Through Courage] was "a scrap of paper," and Tiberghien-Vandenbussche, M.P., frankly urged a rest-cure as opposition party. The same congress displayed a great aggressiveness toward the ACV [Confederation of Christian Trade Unions], at which Prime Minister publicly showed outrage and of which the ACV newspaper VOLKSMACHT said that "the limits of what is permissible had been exceeded."

In 1980 the CVP had just discovered, after an opinion poll, that half of its members would vote for the PVV [Party of Liberty and Progress] and only 18 percent for the SP if their own party no longer existed. This considerably increased the clout of the party's right wing. But that wing had in fact never been able to feel at home with the cautious crisis course followed both by Prime Minister Martens and by Eyskens. Prof Albert Coppé, president of the Société Générale, declared, also at the Ghent congress, that time was running against the CVP and that there must soon be elections to reflect new parliamentary power relationships. Even Tindemans made no secret of the fact that he himself would like to have elections, but twice he voluntarily allowed the chance he had dreamed of to slip by: at the end of March 1981 when Martens IV was being selected, and at the great deadline of 15 May, when the Eyskens cabinet might fall at any minute. It is clear that the CVP now sorely regrets these lost chances. All the existing oppositions are stirred up like the dregs in a bottle.

Minister of Education Geens is fighting for more living space in Catholic education and thus clashing with his colleagues who do not want another school fight. The crisis tax, cautiously advanced in the first place by Mark Eyskens, is still a hard mouthful for the ACV to swallow. Barely 6 months ago Tindemans was covertly pleading for a proxy government. Prof Jan De Meyer, who was coopted by Tindemans and has become a living symbol of parliamentary independence, is still sitting in the senate. The young are still laughing about the central wage agreement that was concluded in February of this year between the social partners [i.e., capital and

labor] and suspended the moderation act that preceded it. Their demand for an economic appraisal congress has never been acceded to (even Tindemans would not hear of it), and so they must continue to air their criticism via less organized channels.

The parliamentary delegations of the party are standing shamedfacedly aside. Second Chamber Member Blankaert once telephoned to the royal palace that "the game would not go on," when Martens collapsed. Bob Gijss, chairman of the party delegation in the senate, went just a few months ago to protest in the Sixteen when he learned that the chairmanship of the second chamber and the senate was really included in the negotiating package on the occasion of the formation of a government. The frustration has not grown less since the discussion of the steel matter. The big choices, involving hundreds of billions [of Belgian francs], were made outside of parliament. The Socialist Willy Claes overcame his critic Jos Dupré at last in a final second chamber debate. And even then, what is more, Prime Minister Eyskens came to the aid of his SP minister.

The history of the CVP since 1979 has not been without incidents. The part played by the Davids Fund during the state reforms, Paul Akkermans's aggressive policy in the Marie Thumas question, Tindemans's poor relations with the domestic and foreign press (since the slip in Steenokkerzeel when Tindemans disavowed Martens and later tried to withdraw that declaration), the stubbornness with which the SP [(Flemish) Socialist Party] and the PS [(French-speaking) Socialist Party] stick to their individual well-chosen platform planks--it all seems to be getting to be too much.

Since right at this time the certainty has come to prevail that Tindemans will yield the leadership of the CVP to somebody else, quick decisions and changes of course can be expected. Will Martens return to Twekerkenstraat? Will unsullied figures such as Jan Huyghebaert, the jurist Carl Bevernage, the center figure Paul De Keersmaecker, or the egghead Herman Van Rompuy provide a new image? The militants of the CVP can still look forward to exciting days.

Interview With Party Secretary

Brussels KNACK in Dutch 10 Jun 81 p 25

[Text] Last week the problems within the CVP bubbled up to the surface while Chairman Tindemans was in the West German city of Aachen. Consequently it was the party secretary, Ludo Willems, that gave us the party central committee's comments. But Willems does not have to adopt the usual political positions. His responsibility lies primarily in the field of the organization and management of the party, especially at election time.

[Question] Has the CVP got a new problem on its hands, or is all this no surprise to you?

Ludo Willems: We have seen this coming for a long time. Nothing special is happening to the CVP. There is no political party in Flanders that has an answer right now to the big socioeconomic upheaval we are going through. Tindemans talked years ago about this "change of climate." Well, we are still in search of a policy profile intelligible to the people. It is still lacking, and hence the general uneasiness. Since the CVP is a reflection of the whole people, in all its branches, it is normal that the doubts and the feeling of insecurity show up in the CVP.

I should like to point out that the SP does not know which foot to put forward, either (the so-called labor plan was just a stunt for the Mayday celebration), that the VU [People's Union] is now engaged in a switch toward nationalism, after having been a sort of D'66 [Democrats '66] 2 years ago, and that within the PVV questions exist concerning the present leadership.

[Question] Is the CVP still divided into two clans, gathered around Martens and Tindemans respectively?

Willems: There have indeed been tensions between those two, but that has not led to clan formation. The party was bored with that question and is relieved that it is out of the way. The uneasiness no longer revolves around that, but around the fact that the CVP does not see its great congress resolutions and the policy plans that have been worked out, such as "Voorspoed door Moed" [Prosperity Through Courage] and "Convert Anxiety Into Hope," reflected in the government's policy.

[Question] Van Rompuy's economic criticism went still further: figures known to be false are being served up to the public, he says.

Willems: The shortcoming of the government program is that it comprises so many complicated calculations. Who has got the correct figures? Especially as concerns the steel plan, further negotiations are necessary, with unions and financial circles, to get the decisions in principle worked out. Moreover, what will the EC do with the Belgian plan? It is plain that the fusion between the two Wallonian steel basins is not entirely complete and an accident can happen at any time along the way.

[Question] Is Tindemans still following everything well? Political circles are assuming that he is all set to leave for Strasbourg.

Willems: For the time being the EVP [Protestant People's Party] is sticking to its announcement that it will not decide until September which candidate it will support to replace Simone Veil. Besides Tindemans, the West German Egon Klepsch has a great deal of support for that job.

[Question] That must be bothersome--watching the Belgian situation and bearing in mind possible elections in October, and keeping an eye on the European deadline in December.

Willems: The two concerns fit together perfectly. Many believe that Tindemans is going to Strasbourg, but he is perfectly within his rights not to make any definite announcement yet about that. In any case he can continue with his domestic political activity until December. And until 1984 he can remain a member of the Belgian parliament. I believe he will also keep the electoral circumstances as favorable as possible for the CVP.

[Question] It all still looks hazy.

Willems: The CVP is not hazy, as is often unfairly asserted. The SP shouts, for example: hands off the index. Then we shout: hands off the child allotment. That is 1:1. We can go on that way. The CVP is not bothered by haziness, but must do much more difficult political work. Until a few years ago we, as the biggest party, could cooperate on the wider distribution of social and public

goods. Now only negative decisions are possible: use restraint, pay in. That makes everybody hesitate! Moreover, our party is led by a man who has been systematically subjected to severe criticism for 4 years. Over the long term that leaves its marks. But it is surprising how little Tindemans has been affected by these campaigns against him; the popularity polls show that.

I prophecy to you a very resolute CVP in the fall. The present malaise was foreseen early, so that we have been at work for months. There was the study group surrounding Dillemans ("Objective 1990," with a brochure and a colloquium behind it). In April and May just past we met for two long week ends to establish the party's strategy and the issues accurately. A big plan of a good hundred pages came of that, which will be put before the bureau and the central committee for approval one of these days. The CVP will show that way that it has clear ideas. In the past it has perhaps indulged in rather too many nuances on all problems. The public have trouble understanding all that, as for example Tindemans's efforts in favor of a political reconciliation in El Salvador. Many people will get the impression that he simply stands behind Duarte. On the contrary; as early as June of last year we urged broadening the Salvadoran government and Tindemans got important international reconciliation talks under way, with people like Willy Brandt, Rumor, and Calvani. The SP did practically nothing except to depict us as a party of the rich and of the dictator Duarte. The index question, too, was much too one-sidedly attributed to the CVP. The party is not asking simply for uncoupling, but for a shift of purchasing power to the firms. The unions are in agreement on that. On "Rerum Novarum" a readiness on the part of the ACV to use restraint and to produce came through. The demand for a new approach was good to hear.

[Question] Will the party make a special effort to overcome the shortcomings that have come to light?

Willems: The bureau meets every week. The plan for the fall is ready. We have an excellent grasp of what we have to do.

Six Prominent Members Comment

Brussels KNACK in Dutch 10 Jun 81 pp 26-27

[Article by F.V.: "A New Club, Fine"]

[Text] The editors interviewed six key figures in the CVP about the situation within their own party. All of them confirmed the existence of discontent and confusion among the members and in the leadership of the biggest coalition partner in the government. It was surprising that these spokesmen, without exception, asked not to be quoted by name. That, too, points to a certain constraint, inasmuch as even the top people of the party obviously should pay attention to what they state in public and what they do not say. Nevertheless, here is a summary of those conversations.

1. An important member of the *Brussels division*, who has for years worked in various *ministers' offices*, finds the malaise evoked now not so unusual. "Something is always stirring when the CVP is on the point of changing chairmen. The stir this time comes from a group that are making preparations for this change. It is persons 'without status' and 'thus' some of the most authentic CVP'ers that are involved.

"It is not the organization of the CVP that is to blame for the present difficulties, for it runs smoothly, as always. There is a certain personnel attrition going on, and so replacements are being sought, since otherwise the party's strategies would become unusable." This informant is most inclined toward the practice that has prevailed for the last 2 years, in which the party will no longer support its prime minister. Yet that was formerly the CVP's greatest strength. If, as is generally expected, Tindemans becomes chairman of the European Parliament as of the first of the year, and domestic elections take place in the meantime, in Belgium both the post of prime minister and that of CVP president will be vacant. Hence the wing movements that are under way within the party. If Tindemans should not go to Strasbourg, it is not out of the question that he might enter into a coalition with the liberals and lead it. This takes us back to the 1977 period and to a very stiff social situation. At last Lyskens himself correctly calculated that in this crisis period a Roman-Red coalition is theoretically the best.

2. Someone from the leadership of the *youth group* emphasizes the malaise with his full weight. "The rank and file want the CVP to give more consideration to structuring its policy against economic decline and the dismantling of our industry. Such a policy is not getting under way, and that is the fault of our ministers. The statement at the CVP congress at Ghent in 1980 that these gentlemen are not indispensable remains a historic utterance. It is not true that the party does not know what it wants. It knows that quite well: higher standards in education, an index change, reform of social security and taxes. Our ministers just have to push that through. They answer that they are not in a position to do so because of their coalition partner. In that case we must simply go into the opposition.

"To put an end to this situation the party can only hang on to the emergency brake and cause the government to fall, however undesirable elections and crises are. But we cannot continue to limit the CVP's rôle to that of the emergency brake, for that is only a negative power. That is realized with perfect clarity by the rank and file. Everybody that goes three or four times a week to speak in a local chapter has experienced that. Attributing the CVP's problem to Chairman Tindemans's psychological defects, as a part of the press does, is nonsense. Anybody that stresses that is engaging in psychiatry and not in politics. For it is obvious that a party that has been in power via its prime minister for 8 years cannot keep saying all the time that it is powerless because of the others."

3. A member of the party study group "Cepess" finds that the unity of the CVP is not in danger; on the contrary. "Within the party the unity has never been so great before. The demand for more drive on the part of our ministers is general. Why are no effective economic measures taken? The fact that the press devotes so much attention to the 'uncertain' CVP is partly by way of counter-campaign, but also because economic unrest has such a hold on the mass of the public."

When asked, the Cepess man confirmed that Tindemans is in any case already a candidate for the European Parliament. That Martens will take his place as leader of the party is very improbable.

4. A member of the *bureau* and mandatary in a community near Brussels sees the problem as lying more within the party itself. In the unfavorable economic situation the three classes try to pull the sheet in their own direction. Since the

present government coalition is rather more or less worker-oriented, that causes frustration on the right wing. Then, too, there are the private interests of a number of ambitious young persons. They want a great deal as quickly as possible. The criticism of the party never comes from the ACV corner, but always from the circles that are closer to the businesses and to the financial institutions.

"Paradoxically enough, the criticism primarily hits the chairman, who is really on their side. They underestimate the unfavorable effects of their efforts on themselves. I find that inconceivable."

Elections solve nothing, since we always have to start over with the same political personnel.

5. A man of great esteem within the ~~Antwerp~~ CVP also acknowledges the perturbation throughout the party. For only about a third of the necessary decisions are made, too little and too late. The party bureau also lives with that difficulty.

The CVP is traditionally a party of people of great power. It no longer gives the impression of being such a party. The SP chalks up successes because it has definite objectives, sticks to them, and scores points--the steel plan, the resistance to installation of atomic rockets, the pressure on the budget. "In all that, Chairman Tindemans is just about at the end of his rope, for every time he tries to break through the immobility he gets clobbered. That is no longer a question of persons, but a result of real power relationships within the party and the coalition. We should have blown them up long since. Tindemans was a proponent of them, but he did not dare on account of the franc."

"Yes, there is a game of musical chairs around the positions of power. Many too many CVP ministers are candidates for prime minister. That makes them afraid of the coalition partners to whom they must be acceptable tomorrow. The party has need of figures like P.W. Segers and Jos De Saeger, who never tuned their views to the sixteen. It is also true that our parliamentary delegation is of too small caliber. For that reason it is always the young or smaller movements in the party that utter the criticism."

The Antwerp informant assumes that the CVP chairmanship will be vacant from September on, as a function of Tindemans's European campaign. In Antwerp, too, some are being sounded out for the succession, which should turn out well for Rika De Backer, who after so many years of national politics would still have difficulty with a new career in a municipal situation. The name of Cepess chairman Herman Van Rompuy has also been mentioned. Wilfried Martens's return to Twekerkenstraat would be unfavorable; fallen prime ministers are best not recuperated as chairmen. Martens would be a good chairman of the parliamentary delegation or a strong minister.

6. A top CVP man in the ~~senate~~ finds the malaise just as great in the other parties. The CVP, however, has the additional complication of its class division. If the government had not remained so indecisive, the election atmosphere would not hang so permanently in the air and make the positions of the parties so unsure.

"It has not been a question of persons or ideologies for a long time. We are now in the phase in which the country must be urgently consulted with regard to definite objectives. After that the control must come into the hands of a new club that does not think so much in terms of elections."

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LEVESQUE DISCUSSES QUEBEC-FRANCE RELATIONS, CONSTITUTION

Paris LE MONDE in French 21-22 Jun 81 pp 5-6

[Article by Dominique Dhombres and Bertrand de la Grange: "An Interview with Mr Rene Levesque. Social Democratic Governments Should Learn To Be Administrators."]

[Text] Prime minister since 1976, firm advocate of independence, Mr Rene Levesque probably is the most popular man in Quebec. Small, lively, and an inveterate smoker, this former television and radio reporter was able to put across his familiar and direct style which contrasted strongly during the last legislative election campaign with the stiff and intellectual tone of his opponent, Mr Claude Ryan.

Advocates of independence now blame Mr Levesque for having shelved the idea of independence in favor of merely the "good administration" of Quebec's affairs. The prime minister, responding in kind, accuses them of deploying many efforts but without fulfilling their basic role with the Quebec masses as propagandists for the cause of independence. Mr Levesque received us in his office, which faces the old city of Quebec, in the modern building situated next to Parliament.

[Question] What do you expect from the change in the political situation in France?

[Answer] Our first impressions confirm what has long been believed, namely, that there is a sort of constancy, modest, yet rather warm, which has grown up between France and Quebec, regardless of the parties in power. Since his stay in Quebec in 1978 Mr Mitterrand has been rather well acquainted with the situation in Quebec, and there are some ministers in the new government who are quite familiar with Quebec or who maintain personal relations with a good number of us. So I do not see why that rather promising warmth of feeling, which has increased from year to year, should not continue. A friendly relationship has been established. One should not forget that about 20 years ago they thought we were a little like Martians landing in Paris. Little by little since then relations have developed which do not in the least seem likely to be threatened.

I remember that during my last meeting with Mr Barre in Paris in December one of his ministers spoke of "a few clouds in the sky." In other words there are some small problems, or even larger problems, which can arise along the way, although our economic cooperation is not large enough to encounter really serious difficulties.

[Question] Are you not afraid that Mr Mitterrand is more federalist than his predecessor? Do you not have the impression that, for example, the Canadian prime minister, Mr Trudeau, has some hopes in that regard?

[Answer] On that last point, it is possible. On the other hand, after reading the messages to Mr Trudeau and to myself, I have the impression that as far as Quebec is concerned they are seeking to maintain a kind of natural closeness, while as far as the whole of Canada is concerned they are seeking more of a natural, diplomatic relationship. I do not see any fundamental change in the principle of "non-interference, no indifference" affirmed by the preceding administration.

[Question] What would you do if Mr Mitterrand made a bilateral visit to Canada during the economic summit meeting which will take place in Ottawa in July?

[Answer] I think that Mr Mitterrand will be very busy and it would be better for an official visit to take place later. However I hope to meet him during the summit meeting to resume personal contact, but nothing more. If there were an official visit to Canada it would be inconceivable not to have a substantial part of it take place in Quebec.

[Question] If the idea of a French-speaking commonwealth re-emerges, do you think that Mr Mitterrand will be as determined as Mr Giscard d'Estaing in demanding full membership for Quebec?

[Answer] I do not see why that would change since Messrs Rocard, Chevenement and Cheysson have a good knowledge of Quebec questions. Moreover, we have received assurances from certain leaders of the Socialist Party. A French-speaking commonwealth without a government level representation from Quebec would be meaningless.

[Question] In case Mr Trudeau were to succeed in putting across his constitutional plan in Canada, and particularly his charter of rights, would you seek diplomatic assistance from France?

[Answer] We could simply sum up the situation on that question with our French interlocutors. And to the extent that the charter would directly affect the promotion of the French language, we could ask for a helping hand.

[Question] In your opinion how long will the punishment imposed by the referendum results last, and will you use your position to bring Quebec to a peaceful independence?

[Answer] I hope so, but I am no prophet. We received 41 percent in the referendum, or 50 percent of the French-speaking votes. The new generation seems to have become somewhat active during the last elections and that is a good sign for us. We have noted that for several years the rate of loyalty to the PQ (Parti Quebecois) exceeds 80 percent, which means that the young people who came to us a dozen years ago and who now are between 35 and 40 years old are still with us. Thus, if today's youth follows in those footsteps we may have boundless hopes. We promised not to hold a referendum during our second term of office but we have clearly

stated that we shall continue to press our ideas. There is therefore a good possibility that we may achieve a form of association-sovereignty or of independence in a few years.

[Question] What date have you set for yourself?

[Answer] I should like 1984 very much, not because of George Orwell, but because of Jacques Cartier who arrived in 1534. That would be 450 years in 1984.

[Question] How do you hope to persuade the people of Quebec?

[Answer] The Parti Quebecois, and perhaps it is our fault, had become somewhat of an administrator during our first term, overseeing the government, watching over commas ad nauseam, and neglecting the basic work of the party, namely, to spread its ideas. During our second term the party must do door-to-door canvassing, publish simple works, etc. The party's task is all the more important since the census now being carried out by the federal government might well show a decline in the relative weight of Quebec in the Canadian entity as a whole. We must emphasize this danger, explain it, so that people may become aware of it.

[Question] Some members of the party blame you for the same thing and regret that you no longer speak of independence.

[Answer] We ourselves were taken up with routines, administration, and the reforms that had to be put in order. It was therefore up to the party to take up the pilgrim staff and go out and convince people. Instead of that—and it is partly my fault—there they were, settled in, watching over everything that the government did or did not do fast enough. They did not speak of independence during that time.

[Question] On the constitutional level could your alliance with seven English-speaking provinces go beyond the struggle against Mr Trudeau's plan and lead to an understanding that would be satisfactory for Quebec?

[Answer] No, inasmuch as these provinces would not agree to discuss anything that might go outside the federal framework. That being said, these talks nevertheless did allow us to find common wave-lengths, in particular with people from the West and even with certain Atlantic coast provinces. If Quebec decided to separate politically from the rest of Canada, that ought to make it easier to renew ties in a new context. At least two of my colleagues from other provinces even told me that if they were in our place they would have the same idea about the future of Quebec and that it would not be the end of the world to change a system of government. On the human and geographic level the Canadian reality would remain but the political structure can change.

[Question] What do you think Canada will be like in 10 years?

[Answer] Exactly the opposite of what Mr Trudeau is trying to develop. Moreover, if he succeeds I believe he will have done what is needed to create more illusions and break-ups before his retirement, and if I followed the policy of painting

things as black as possible, I would say so much the better. Rather than move toward an almost unitary centralist policy of which Mr Trudeau has always dreamed, we seek a greater decentralization, toward a federal coordination.

[Question] The composition, announced in April, of your latest government was generally interpreted as the sign of a turn to the right, toward a conservatism that conflicts with the social democratic tradition of the Parti Quebecois. A liberal-opposition deputy even said during the presentation of your governmental program to the National Assembly that parts of your speech on the economy and the need to reduce public expenditures could have been written by the board of directors of the management association or by President Reagan.

[Answer] Social democratic governments, or if you will, those which are to the left of center, ought to learn to become administrators if they are to avoid being voted out of office, as it has happened to a certain number of them. The next few years will constitute a test on the administrative level, to the extent that governments seek to extricate themselves from problems in a world becoming ever more difficult. We are in danger of undergoing an economic decline and the pie could diminish or at least not increase very much. That is necessarily going to affect social programs and one should, for example, introduce a deductible minimum for medical expenses which are for the moment entirely free in Quebec.

But that, however, is not a turn to the right and we retain our social democratic convictions, even if this term is rather artificial in North America. For us, social democracy means a constant concern for justice, for equality of opportunity. It is a kind of revolution by degrees toward a model of society which would be better balanced, more livable, for everyone. I do not believe we have changed our views on that point and these concerns come up constantly in our discussions, even if we have to take into account a certain number of new constraints.

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INDEPENDENCE PARTY ALTHING GROUP LEADER GIVES VIEWS

Reykjavik MORGUNBLADID in Icelandic 21 Jun 81 p 34

[Interview with Olafur G. Einarsson, the Independence Party's Althing group leader, in his office at Vonarstraeti 12, in June]

[Text] The house at Vonarstraeti 12 has a long history; it was built in 1908 by Skuli Thorodssen. Not only was it a well-built house at the time, but it also had an electrical system, even though electricity did not come to Reykjavik until somewhat later. It also had a central heating system, which was unusual in the capital during the first decade of the century. The house still plays a role in the history of the country and the capital. The leaders of the Althing groups have offices in it, along with certain Althing representatives. Althing representatives have similar facilities in three other houses as well: at Vonarstraeti 8, Skjalbreid and in Thorshamar.

A MORGUNBLADID journalist recently visited the house to interview Olafur G. Einarsson, the Independence Party Althing group leader, at the close of the 103rd National Legislative Assembly. Einarsson's office is on the second floor of the house, where Albert Gudmundsson once had a wholesale store. It consists of two rooms, one a typical office and the other for chats. In the latter room there is a huge old-fashioned leather sofa and chair set that once sat in the home of the Althing representative and before that belonged to his parents, Olaf Isakedottir and Einar Kristansson (who lived in Siglufjordur for a long time and then in Akureyri). Still earlier it belonged to Soren Soos, a factory owner in Siglufjordur who was one of the pioneers in the herring industry in this country. It is probably not much younger than the house by the lake itself, which it shares with the leaders of the Icelandic Althing parties.

Olafur G. Einarsson was first asked about the activities of his Althing group during the last legislative year.

[Answer] The activities of the Althing group are always manifold, but last winter was particularly busy, as the preparation and discussion of various Althing issues are very time-consuming. Various specialists whose assistance is required for major issues, such as the economy and energy, worked with the Althing group, along with 12 issue committees that handle certain areas of interest. On each such committee there are at least two Althing representatives, along with men whom the Central Committee of the party appoints and who are either specialists in the area in question and connected to it through their work in the community. These issue committees serve as a link between the Althing group and specialized technicians, on the one hand, and those actively employed (work experience) in the various spheres of culture and social life in the country, on the other. Policy-making at the national conventions is the basic aim of these efforts.

The Althing group holds two regular meetings on a weekly basis while the Althing is in session, plus an additional meeting if required. All the Althing members of the party, whether they support the government or the opposition, are entitled to participate in these meetings, although the government supporters have not exercised that right completely. Furthermore, the Althing representatives of opposition parties hold special meetings to coordinate their work and stands on the issues.

Individual Althing representatives of the Independence Party or the entire Althing group were sponsored over a hundred Althing initiatives during the last Althing term, including bills, motions for Althing resolutions and inquiries, as well as up to 30 additional Althing issues that individual Althing representatives cosponsored with representatives of other parties.

[Question] Which of these issues was the most memorable for you?

[Answer] The Althing group put a lot of work into four Althing issues involving new powerplants and energy development. Three bills were introduced about these matters, a bill involving the planning of energy issues, another bill for geological drilling by the state and a bill for new powerplants. The last bill involved a permit to harness the Jokuls River in Fljots Valley for an estimated 330 MW at full power output; for a powerplant on the Blanda, which would put out 180 MW pending an agreement with the local district; a 130 MW powerplant on the Thjors River at Sultantangi and the expansion of the Hrauneyjafoss Powerplant to 170 MW. The bill calls for the completion of all the plants in 10 years, provided all stipulated conditions are met.

Along with these bills, the Althing group submitted a motion for an Althing resolution regarding policy-making in heavy industry, since energy development of this kind is a precondition for profits from such a large powerplant investment, secure employment, increased national income and improved living conditions over the decades to come. This motion was included in another similar proposal from the Social Democratic Party. The government supporters were unable to either pass or defeat the proposal; instead, they referred it to the government, where the People's Alliance is showing the way in this field!

The Althing group also submitted a well-prepared proposal for the construction, financing and organization of durable roads. The finance committee of a united Althing took most of the paragraphs of this proposal, along with provisions from a proposal by the communications minister, and put them into one motion, which the Althing passed. We can say only that the Independence Party has good reason to be content with its influence on this policy, as the battle now stands in the Althing, although we would have liked a more goal-oriented policy.

Furthermore, I can mention a motion for an Althing resolution on farm policy. A great deal of work was put into this, although it was not passed. In connection with that issue and many others into which a lot of effort was put even though conditions were not conducive to pushing them through, I should mention that this work and preparation will be of use later on. The soil was prepared and seeds were sown for the harvest that will come in due time.

[Question] What was the main disagreement between the government and its opposition?

[Answer] There were many. There was great disagreement on economic matters, the financial affairs of the state, especially concerning taxes, pricing, social issues, particularly housing, not to mention security and defense, with the People's Alliance veto power in the background.

Regarding taxes, it was the party's policy to lighten the tax burden on individuals and companies to what it was in 1977 during the last year of Geir Hallgrímsson's administration, because since then the tax burden on firms and individuals has increased. Althing representatives in the opposition underscored the election promises to eliminate all the left-wing government taxes from 1978 on. But they have now been extended, and new taxes have been added. A successful attempt was made in this regard when a fresh assault by the People's Alliance tax minister on the private sector was turned back by rejecting a depreciation cutback in his new tax bill.

Regarding prices, emphasis was placed on the implementation of regulations that the Progressive Party and the Independence Party adopted in 1978 (decontrolled pricing when there is enough competition), but the People's Alliance, which is getting its way in many areas these days, was able to postpone them. A minority party in the Althing has secured a power position far beyond its standing in the nation on this matter and on so many others. The Independence Party's policy to enable as many individuals as possible to purchase their own homes, in keeping with the party's campaign pledge of "ownership for all," has suffered a defeat under the present government.

[Question] How strong is support for the government in your opinion, and what will happen if it falls?

[Answer] If polls are to be taken seriously, the government had a lot of support to begin with that lasted for an incredibly long time. It is equally clear now, if we can trust these same polls, that its support is gradually declining. And it is my conviction that the only true "countdown" (gradual fall) will be the government's. It seems to me that the government is holding

together by ignoring the policies of the coalition parties; their only watchword is to remain in government at all costs.

If we look at the People's Alliance policy on wages or defense, it is clear that it is acting in contradiction to what it preaches.

The Progressive Party launched a clear-cut policy that gained it a lot of votes. Whether that policy is right or wrong, which can be disputed, it is unquestionably far from being the policy that the government is now pursuing.

And certainly the ministers in the present government are not advocating either the Independence Party's tax policy or its other policies. The People's Alliance veto power and its appointment of the manager of the Fire Insurance Company of Iceland without the knowledge and consent of the owners is an example of its tactics.

If and when this government falls, and the longer its term lasts, the more difficult it will be to form a new one. I do not rule out the possibility of a new government, as neither the Althing groups nor the general public are interested in elections at this point.

I don't think it would be right for me, as the leader of the Independence Party Althing group, to exclude any possibilities or to list the possibilities for a new government in their order of likelihood. I would reiterate, however, that I consider the power of the People's Alliance in the present government far too great. If the Independence Party is to cooperate with the People's Alliance, with an eye towards a satisfactory apportionment of power, the entire party, not just a powerless faction, must be involved, and a more agreeable government policy would be required.

A replacement administration like the one that was successful in the 1970's cannot gain an Althing majority without elections, but that kind of government would doubtless be supported by the nation.

[Question] What is going on with the government platform and the voting proportions?

[Answer] That is a good question. The issue of the government platform was one of the main ones that the Althing groups worked on with representatives who were elected at a Central Committee meeting last winter. The Althing group has completed a policy that consists of three main points: to guarantee equal rights among political parties, to balance the votes among the districts and to give the voters an opportunity for more personal elections than we have now. The Althing group chose three of its members to start discussions with other Althing groups, as this is an issue that requires a broad consensus. As far as Althing group policy-making is concerned, the one-man districts are being bolstered, which will not be to everyone's liking, together with other measures to give Reykjavik and the Reykjanes Peninsula a larger role.

[Question] What is the standing of the Independence Party now that the national convention, its most powerful body, is coming up?

[Answer] Its standing on the issues is very strong, as recent polls by two newspapers confirm. It is clear that the main opponents of the party on national issues have not been successful in their attempt to destroy its future influence by shooting an arrow at the party in connection with the present coalition. Furthermore, it is clear that the rank-and-file of the Independence Party, on whom the activities and the future of the party are based, put issues before personalities.

In spite of this, the Independence Party must solve its problems and to this end, it does not need instructions from the People's Alliance or THJODVILJINN, who seem to have guidelines at hand for how the Independence Party ought to deal with its affairs. The veto power of the People's Alliance does not apply at the national convention of the Independence Party! The national convention, at which more than 1,000 party members from all over the country will participate, will, as in the past, formulate the party's future policy and choose its leadership. It is of great importance for the convention to reach a consensus on this matter, and this major goal will be the polestar for all those who want a strong and united Independence Party to continue to be the stronghold for middle class values and civil rights in the country.

Differing opinions on everyday issues have their place in a broad-minded party like the Independence Party. But at a moment that can shape the destiny of this country for a long time to come, it will be the members of the party themselves, not its political opponents, who take the lead. It is basic policy and the unity around it that count. This is what is uppermost in my mind as I look towards the Independence Party's national convention and future.

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PROGRESSIVE PARTY SHAKEN OVER FOREIGN POLICY DEFECTOR

Reykjavik MORGUNBLADID in Icelandic 27 Jun 81 pp 18-19

[Article by Bjorn Bjarnason: "Undercurrents in the Political Calm"]

[Text] The members of the People's Alliance have lost their faith in the government. The head of the Althing group, Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, is rejoicing over the leadership of the People's Alliance minister during the last Althing session, which he considers the most productive in no less than 140 years.

Althing and municipal representative Gudrun Helgadóttir is very pleased about political developments last winter and says the following about the government: "It has already tackled various significant issues. I think that I am not underestimating anyone when I say that the ministers of the People's Alliance were in the forefront..."

With regard to the left-leaning policy of Steingrímur Hermannsson during the 1979 elections and at the formation of the government in February 1980 and the satisfaction of the main spokesmen of the People's Alliance both outside and within the government, one could assume that the leftist faction of the Progressive Party considered the administration fairly good. That is not the case with the resignation of Finnþógi Hermannsson, the alternate representative in the district of Steingrímur Hermannsson, from the Progressive Party. He left the party because of the foreign policy of Olafur Jóhannesson. Finnþógi Hermannsson has joined forces with the People's Alliance and in a way with Dr Gunnar Thorodssen, the prime minister, who has been leaning more towards them than towards Jóhannesson in his struggle for supremacy as foreign minister. The Althing representative of the Progressive Party, Páll Petursson, describes Finnþógi Hermannsson thus: "I and Finnþógi Hermannsson agreed on many things within the Althing group. For instance, we are both army base opponents..."

Finnþógi Hermannsson describes the situation within the Progressive Party by saying that there is a great deal of discontent and disintegration due to a lack of leadership and a lack of contact with the leadership. How can the situation be otherwise in the districts when that is how it is with the party leader himself? Steingrímur Hermannsson does not seem to take the comments and decisions of his alternate representative seriously. He says: "I don't consider this matter serious enough to be newsworthy." Is the party leader's attitude or, rather, lack of attitude enough to bring harmony to his district and party?

In this regard, the following comment was made on 17 August 1980: "Those who speculate about politics have put forth an idea about Gunnar Thorodssen's estimate of the situation, which is that there is only one way for him to win popularity among the majority of the Independence Party and that is by chasing the communists out of the government, stepping forth before the majority of the Althing group of the Independence Party and saying: If you support me and the Progressive Party, we can exclude the communists from the country's government. They are useless anyway."

Ten months have passed since these speculations were brought to people's attention, and they remain just that, speculations. Is there any possibility that they will be put into practice?

It is clear that many of the supporters of the Independence Party members in the government were greatly disappointed when Svavar Gestsson appointed Ingi R. Helgason, who has been called the guardian of the People's Alliance's gold coffer, the director of the Fire Insurance Company of Iceland. In this regard, I will refer in particular to the comments by Arni Emilsson in Grundarfjörður and Sturla Bodvarsson in Stykkishólmur in this paper on 13 June. Until now, they have supported Justice Minister Fridjon Thordarson. Their comments can only be interpreted as a decline in that support. Among the members of the Independence Party who have supported the government, the opinion that it would be best for Dr Gunnar Thorodssen to get rid of the communists in the government has definitely gained backing. A decision on this could cause the prime minister to steal the show at the meeting of the Independence Party in the fall.

The national convention will be held from 29 October to 1 November. The wage settlements of the Labor Federation (ASI) and the Employers Confederation expire on 1 November, and the wage settlement of bank employees expires on 30 August, so their wages will be the first to be negotiated in the fall. The article quoted above and published on 17 August last year indicated that it was not true that the communists were useless in the government, if they were prepared to exert their influence within the ranks of the Labor Federation for the benefit of the government. The members of the People's Alliance proved to be useful in wage settlements from the perspective of those who think that inflation cannot be conquered unless wage increases are held under control. This was confirmed when they were responsible, both within the government and the federation, for the smoothly handled reduction of wages by seven percent on 1 March.

By the time the national convention of the Independence Party is held, the People's Alliance wage policy should be clear. The general meeting of the party's labor council took place recently, but no policy was formulated. There was a struggle between those who want to aim for basic wage increases and those who follow the policy of THJODVILJINN and the ministers, which Kjartan Olafsson, the deputy chairman of the People's Alliance and the editor of THJODVILJINN, described as follows in his paper on 28 April: "Free rein should not be granted anywhere, only the loosening up that is inevitable in each case. Then we will manage to bring inflation down from 60 percent to 25 percent before the end of the term, as long as all goes well in our foreign trade. The government is headed in the right direction, but the path is slippery."

As these comments by Kjartan Olafsson indicate, the so-called "countdown" of inflation by the government will come to naught if free rein is given anywhere in the economic system. If the members of the People's Alliance are planning to do that in connection with the wage settlement, Dr Gunnar Thorodssen will be deprived of the only political grounds for their cooperation. It is obvious from the wage struggle of the doctors how much effort the ministers of the People's Alliance are willing to exert in order to prevent basic wage increases. The ministers fell only once on the slippery path, when their own wages and the wages of Althing members were involved.

Eiríkur Tomasson, one of the up-and-coming leaders of the Progressive Party, said at the beginning of the year, when the communists had just agreed on the wage cut, that the opportunity had to be seized. The communists could not run away from the government as long as people did not forget their agreement to cut wages. The satisfaction of Olafur R. Grimsson and Gudrun Helgadóttir with developments last winter indicates that the communists are preparing for a long stay in the government. They do not seem to expect or fear a wage explosion in the settlements this fall.

People who have a thorough familiarity with the situation in the Labor Federation think that this optimism is unfounded as the situation now stands within it. People are on vacation, however, and Asmundur Stefánsson, the president of ASI, is basking in luxury in communism's poverty state, the Soviet Union, and it is impossible to say what he will be able to do for his colleagues in the government when he returns refreshed from the east. According to these knowledgeable individuals, the wage discussions in the fall could easily result in the individual associations not accepting subordination to the centralized ASI leadership and deciding to negotiate on their own. This would certainly be a great shock for Asmundur Stefánsson and would weaken the People's Alliance's influence on wage settlements and thereby also encourage a lack of responsibility among the leadership, who would begin having fears about votes.

Therefore, everything is not as it seems. It might prove to be unclever of Prime Minister Dr Gunnar Thorodssen and the head of the Progressive Party, Steingrímur Hermannsson, to rely too much on the People's Alliance concerning the wage settlements. The party has a tendency to turn 180 degrees from established policy and to lean towards its old opportunism again. The talk among its leaders about "the general condition of the national economy" can overnight change into an exclamation such as, "Put the agreements into effect!" The People's Alliance participated in the cabinet of Dr Gunnar Thorodssen in order to have an effect on the internal affairs of the Independence Party and to create discord within the Progressive Party. Finnbogi Hermannsson's resignation from the Progressive Party is adding fuel to the fire of the People's Alliance. The arguments of its leaders for supporting a continued coalition could sound like this: If we resign from the government, we would face the same situation as the French Communists, who must bow and scrape to get close to ministerial chairs. By remaining in the government, we maintain the division within the Independence Party and create discord within the Progressive Party. Just look how the circle around Olafur Jóhannesson is narrowing! And look how many people we are able to give high-paying government positions to!

The political undercurrents are obvious at the moment; however, no one knows whether they will get stronger and rock the ship of state in the political calm that we have on the surface. If we look back, we can say that ever since the summer solstice agreements in 1977, politicians have had to deal with many problems during the summertime. There are fewer now than often before, because of favorable developments in the exchange rate and a good fish catch. But the same rule applies to politics as to other matters: A good tree can be expected to bear good fruit.

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SOVIET RESEARCH ACTIVITY IN COUNTRY INCREASES

Reykjavik MORGUNBLADID in Icelandic 17 Jun 81 p 25

[Text] Fifty-three permits have been granted by the National Research Council to foreigners this summer. Other applications have not yet been processed, and 5 or 6 of them are now before the council. The permits that have already been granted are mostly for two fields, biology and geology. Five of these permits are for the USSR, whereas last year the Soviets were denied research permits as they did not file satisfactory reports, and the Icelanders who were supposed to work with them thought that the cooperation had existed on paper only, according to Gunnar Bjorn Jonsson from the National Research Council.

Gunnar Bjorn Jonsson said in an interview with MORGUNBLADID that the Russians had now turned in satisfactory reports on prior research expeditions and had therefore been granted permits again. Only a translation of one report was missing; it would probably arrive in October. "All their work this summer will be done in cooperation with Icelanders, and it is much better defined than before," he said. The people who have been assigned to work with the Russians here said, according to Jonsson, that previously their work with the Russians had been minimal but that this time they would travel to the research areas along with them and then work together on the results of their investigations. The five permits that have been granted, bearing the numbers 35-39, are for three Russians, with one of them holding three permits. They are also bringing assistants along with them. Jonsson said that some of them had already started research, while others would arrive in the summer. All the permits are for the field of geology.

Permit 35 involves the mapping of part of the Westfjords, with emphasis on the geological strata. The local assistants are Leifur Simonarson and Kristjan Albertsson from the Natural Sciences Institute. Work will mostly take place in Selardalur, but at other sites as well.

Permits 36, 37 and 38 are for the same person. Jon Eiriksson from the Natural Sciences Institute is the "contact man" for permit 36, which includes clearance for investigating the composition of volcanic ash strata. Areas scheduled for research are the northwest corner of the country, Selardalur, Brjanslaekur and elsewhere.

Sveinn Jakobsson from the Institute of Natural History or Sigurdur Steinthorsson from the Natural Sciences Institute is the supervisor for permit 37, which includes research on metamorphic basalt.

Hrefna Kristmundsdóttir from the Energy Institute is in charge of permit 38, which concerns studies on the distribution and chemical composition of metamorphic rock in the Eyjafjall area.

The last permit, Number 39, is for the third Russian. His work area will be in the east, in Breiddalsvik, and he will be doing research on mineralogy and seismology there.

The permits are similar to the ones in the past, according to Jonsson. The main groups will come from Britain, and they are divided among true scientific expeditions and rather large school study groups. The school groups will arrive here without research permits but will be supervised. They will be obliged to look out for the environment and other considerations.

Jonsson said that supervision was stricter than in previous years; however, better contacts were being maintained with the expeditions, enabling them to get in touch with the proper parties during preliminary stages, such as the Council for the Protection of Nature and local mayors; permission to pass through the research areas has also been obtained.

In addition, Jonsson said that there were no major expeditions this summer and that some of the permits were for continuing research while others were for new projects. Finally, he said that aside from these permits, there are always many research parties that come to the country as tourists and do their research without securing permits.

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DUTCH UNIVERSITY SENDS EXPEDITION TO SPITSBERGEN

Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 7 Jul 81 p 2

[Report: "Spitsbergen Was Once Polluted by Netherlanders"]

[Text] Groningen, 7 Jul--Yesterday morning an expedition from the Arctic Center of the Groningen State University left for Spitsbergen to investigate the 17th century former whaling site of Smeerenburg on Amsterdam Island.

The investigators hope to be able to complete their field work this summer. The expedition which left yesterday is the third successive one and also the last, for there is no money left for new expeditions.

After a preliminary trip in 1978, the expeditions of 1979 and 1980 have already yielded a wealth of data which all fit into the objective of the project. The expedition leader, cultural anthropologist Louwrens Hacquebord, summarizes the objectives: "What did the settlements there look like, what was the influence of climatological conditions on Dutch whaling in the 17th century and how did those Netherlanders adapt themselves to the Arctic conditions?"

Besides archive related work, the participants resort primarily to excavations and other field data in their investigation. At Smeerenburg one is concentrating on the whaling industry as it developed in the first part of the 17th century thanks to the activities of the Northern Company, a cartel of whaling enterprises from Amsterdam, Delft, Rotterdam, Enkhuizen, Hoorn, Zaandam and Harlingen.

Thus the investigators go into the relationship between humans and the environment, according to Louwrens Hacquebord. "How did humans adapt to those conditions? Part of the investigation is to compare that to the behavior of the Eskimos. The Netherlanders arrived there as exploiters of the environment, and they acted rather roughly. When an Eskimo shoots a bear, he uses everything of that bear. The whalers used only the skin, teeth and claws. They left the rest. Contrary to the Eskimo, they did not make an optimal use of that environment."

During this third expedition an attempt will be made to uncover an entire house at Smeerenburg. According to Mr Hacquebord, the manner of construction of the houses continues to be puzzling. "They resembled houses in North Holland, but we would very much like to know how they were adapted to the cold."

In another tryworks at Smeerenburg there will be a small excavation to determine the similarities and differences in the archeological finds. With the aid of fragments from pipe bowls another attempt will be made to determine the origin of the users of that tryworks. The place where Netherlands built a fort on Smeerenburg will also be sought.

The last two weeks will be spent on the excavation of a house of the Harlinger tryworks located on the Danish island opposite Smeerenburg. Won't Louwrens Hacquebord, who is a convinced supporter of the Greenpeace ideas, be very embittered walking around on that Amsterdam Island where so many whales were killed?

"No, certainly not. One must see that in the light of the times. The misery in connection with the extinction of the whale only started in this century when the factory ships turned up and the whale was tracked down and caught with modern techniques." The expedition will stay in Spitsbergen for 2 months. That means working 2 months in a temperature which sometimes is unpleasantly far below the freezing point; it means watching out for polar bears and it means a rather monotonous life.

Louwrens Hacquebord: "And yet, one is never bored there. Nature doesn't leave time for that. You feel at one with nature. It is an enormous privilege to be able to work there."

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BRIEFS

COMPULSORY EDUCATION EXTENSION--Ankara (Special)--The 10th National Education Council has approved a new system which will bring significant changes to our national education. According to the new system, compulsory education, which is currently 5 years, will be raised to 8 years; elementary and middle schools will be combined and the age for entering primary education changed from 7 to 6 years. The board approved the principle of directing students to vocational schools or normal lycees following primary education, according to their capabilities, and proposed passing students on the basis of a course-credit system rather than on the academic year basis. The decisions taken by the 10th National Education Council will be implemented in stages by the Ministry of National Education. [Excerpt] [Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 27 Jun 81 p 12]

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